

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 are now pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration. Claims 18-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to expedite allowance of this application.

Claims 1 and 11 were objected to because the examiner believes that the language "the another surface" lacks antecedent basis. Applicants disagree. The language "another surface" in lines 4-5 of claim 1 and line 2 of claim 11 provides proper antecedent basis for the language "the another surface."

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe (JP 2001-111128). Since claims 18 and 19 have been canceled, this rejection has been rendered moot.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10, 11, 13-16, and 18-20 now stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Maruyama (USPGP 2005/0104476). Applicants submit that Maruyama is NOT prior art since this application claims priority to JP 2004-171641 filed 9 June 2004, which predates Maruyama's earliest effective date (10 November 2004). In this respect, applicants propose filing a verified English translation of the priority application shortly to perfect priority and place this application in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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26 AUGUST 2008

DATE

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